

As discussed during the personal interview, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest a first face of a plurality of partitions on a side of a raw material supply flow passage that is only coated by an inactive second material. Claims 21 and 31 call for similar features.

As discussed during the personal interview, Hayashi discloses using an alumina agent that is coated on a surface of a cordierite substrate, with a catalyst carried on a surface of the alumina agent (col. 3, lines 7-14). Because Hayashi coats the alumina agent with a catalyst, Hayashi fails to disclose or suggest a raw material supply flow passage that is only coated by an inactive second material

Page 2 of the Office Action also cites Hayashi's col. 5, lines 4-7. However, as discussed during the personal interview, Hayashi is discussing a catalyst F that is located downstream of both a honeycomb filter E and an absorbing filter D for a comparative example. Such a catalyst F is not relevant to claims 1, 21 and 31.

Rao and Gadkaree fail to overcome the deficiencies of Hayashi for reasons previously presented (for example, the July 28, 2008 Request for Reconsideration).

As further noted during the personal interview, it would not have been reasonably predictable to combine all of Hayashi, Rao and Gadkaree for many of the reasons set forth in the July 28, 2008 Request for Reconsideration.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hayashi in view of Rao, Gadkaree, Hwang et al. (Hwang), U.S. Patent No. 4,522,894, and Doty et al. (Doty), U.S. Patent No. 5,098,455. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hwang and Doty fail to overcome the deficiencies of Hayashi, Rao and Gadkaree as applied to independent claims 1, 21 and 31. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/bab

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 10, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--